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FLOOR DEBATE

March 11, 2004      LB 315

agenda. Are there any objections? It requires unanimous consent to take up the last bill. Any objection? Did you object, Senator Bourne? There is one objection. I'm sorry, we will not continue Final Reading. We will go on to General File, consent calendar. Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, LB 315 was introduced by Senator Brashear. (Read title.) The bill was read for the first time on January 14, referred to the Judiciary Committee. That committee reports the bill to General File with committee amendments. (AM1034, Legislative Journal page 1181, First Session.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you. Before we do go on, we have an important announcement. There...I can't find my slip with the announcement on it, but I think I remember there is a certain birthday. And it is Senator Raikes' birthday. And I think there is something in the lounge for each and every member. So let's all wish Senator Raikes a very happy birthday on this special occasion. He said he turned 40 years old today, so happy fortieth, Senator Raikes. Senator Brashear, to open on your bill.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Mr. President, members of the body, it has been a long time since the statutes of the state of Nebraska have been amended in any significant regard with regard to notaries public. In fact, it's been more than 30 years. You know, it's that thing we have about change. The problem is that our present statutes have relatively minimal requirements and standards with regard to the office of notary public, and provide very little guidance as to the proper professional and ethical procedures for notaries public to follow. Our statutes were written at a time when things were kinder and gentler, and we weren't dealing on a daily basis with identity theft and credit fraud and the like. LB 315, which I introduced at the request of the Secretary of State, addresses the deficiencies which we see within our present statutes. In addition, we are addressing a number of issues which have been presented to your Judiciary Committee over a significant period of time. I will summarize the major provisions of LB 315. Under current law, a person must assemble 25 signatures of legal voters from the